AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been amended as follows: Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikethroughs~~ indicate deletions.

1. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, open to the atmosphere, comprising:

a tubular housing ~~having a~~ closed at a first end thereof by a plate ~~first end~~;

a series of tubular sections, received in a second end of said tubular housing opposite said first end thereof, telescopically arranged in said tubular housing, each tubular section having a piston head on a side of said first end with an opening to introduce a fluid in successive areas enclosed between two successive piston heads; and

~~sealing walls~~ bore seals connected to said piston heads providing sealing walls between said successive areas where the fluid is present, on a side of said first end of said tubular housing relative to said bore seals ~~ambient air being free to enter between a piston head and a respective tubular section~~;

wherein said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel, surfaces of walls in the nitrided steel of the tubular sections being in contact with one another as the tubular sections are telescopically displaced as a result of introduction of the fluid under pressure, surface asperities of the surfaces providing formation of a film of the fluid on the sliding walls of the telescopically arranged and moving tubular sections. ~~for a semi-lubricated contact therebetween.~~

2. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, open to the atmosphere, comprising:

a cylindrical housing;

a series of actuatable tubular sections ~~in semi-lubricated contact and~~ telescopically received in said housing from an open end thereof; each tubular section having a piston head with an opening, on a side of said open end, for passage of a pressure fluid therethrough; and

bore seal means between areas enclosed by two successive piston ends ~~for separating the fluid from ambient~~ maintaining the fluid on said side of the open end;

wherein ~~ambient air is free to enter between a piston head and a respective tubular section, and~~ said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel, surfaces of walls in the nitrided steel of the tubular sections being in contact with one another as the tubular sections are telescopically displaced as a result of introduction of the fluid under pressure, surface asperities of the surfaces providing formation of a film of the fluid on the sliding walls of the telescopically arranged and moving tubular sections.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, open to the atmosphere, comprising:

a cylindrical housing;

a series of actuatable tubular sections telescopically received in said housing in an open side thereof; each said tubular section having a piston head~~; an~~ with an inlet/~~outlet~~ port ~~in piston heads~~ for passage of a pressure fluid therethrough from said open side; and

bore seal means mounted in said piston heads on a side thereof facing said open side, maintaining ~~separating~~ said fluid on said side of said piston heads ~~from ambient air, ambient air being free to enter between a piston head and a respective tubular section; bore means provided in said tubular sections on a front side of said piston heads;~~

wherein said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel, a film of the fluid forming on asperities of walls of the tubular sections on a side thereof facing said open side as they are telescopically displaced as a result of introduction of the fluid under pressure. ~~so as to be in semi-lubricated contact with one another.~~

5. (Currently amended) A bore seal telescopic hoist, comprising:

a series of tubular sections; and

a tubular housing with an open end to receive said series of tubular sections, said tubular sections being telescopically arranged in said tubular housing ~~and in a semi-lubricated contact with one another~~;

wherein said series of tubular sections comprises an outermost tubular section and at least one inner tubular section, said outermost tubular section having a head provided with a hydraulic inlet port allowing a fluid to be introduced in a first area between said head and a piston head of said at least one inner tubular section, each one of said at least one inner tubular section having an opening allowing the fluid to be received in a second area enclosed between the piston head thereof and a piston head of a successive tubular section, ~~ambient air being free to enter the hoist between a piston head and a respective tubular section,~~ each piston head being provided with ~~bore seals~~ a bore seal confining the fluid on a side thereof facing the open end of the tubular housing ~~to separate the areas where the fluid is present and ambient air~~, said tubular sections being made in a nitrided steel, and, when the tubular sections are telescopically displaced as a result of introduction of the fluid under pressure through the hydraulic inlet port, a film of the fluid is formed, in a side of the bore seals facing the open end of the tubular housing, on sliding walls of the telescopically arranged and moving tubular sections due to a presence of surface asperities thereon.